Dear friend

I return the inclosed as, directed by Edmund, to your own hands. I am sorry that friends abroad should have noticed any falling off in the Standard - But Edmund Van Amburgh for showman we shall bring all up yet. Edmund's own file from Webb which he has been kind enough to send me mentions two matters which perhaps some of yours will explain: if so will you be kind enough to let me see them. I mean the insult or discourtesy which Douglas has exhibited toward Webb & Haughton - & then, secondly, the story some year ago which after R.R.R. Moore's marriage made R.D.W. so suddenly change his whole opinion of him - I knew Moore & was always surprised at their excessive estimate of his abilities - had I seen more of him I might have felt my first indifference to him justified - but he was a pet of J.A.C. & I concluded at the time to distrust my own impressions & borrow John's.

I judge from E.Q.'s letter that you agree with all this way in abominating the article on Briggs. I never regretted anything so much connected with the Standard - Ann's constant query has been whether something could not be said which would even now free the Standard from the responsibility - I confess I see no way. but if your ingenuity can suggest any, I hope you will go ahead - It is shameful.

I shrugged my shoulders in reading it rejoicing that I had argued for initials - for I would not wish to bear the brunt of such a writer's responsibility - E.Q., I see, gives in & joins the "letters" party. I have sent Sydney my opinion of the piece.

[illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] also from all ~~[illegible]~~ that neither Garrison & [illegible] give a quite & cordial greeting for the great Report [illegible]

Abruptly called away to town, I must stop - hoping that you will soon see S.H.G. & find reason to believe all my report of him, & that one B'd meeting will settle all the trouble.

Yours very truly

W.P.

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